

# ATTORNEY GENERAL

## STATE OF MONTANA

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Fellow Montanans:

As the Montana Highway Patrol approaches its 70<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2005, the men and women of the Patrol continue to be the state's most visible law enforcement personnel. I commend the Patrol for the important work it does each day on Montana's roadways.

Thanks to the efforts of parents, the Patrol and other concerned individuals and organizations, seatbelt use in Montana continues to improve. Statistics in this report show that in 2003, nearly 80 percent of Montana's drivers buckled up.

Still, we can do better. The consistent, proper use of seatbelts, child-safety seats and other systems remains the simplest, quickest way to stay safe and alive. Looking ahead, next year we will again ask Montana lawmakers to enact a primary seatbelt law. The Patrol's primary focus is to save lives and reduce the severity of crash-related injuries. By enacting a primary seatbelt law, Montana legislators can show their support for the Patrol's mission and do their part to improve public safety.

I congratulate the Montana Highway Patrol on another year of serving Montanans through enforcement, education and prevention. We all look forward to a safe, productive year to come.

Very truly yours,

A stylized, handwritten signature of Mike McGrath in dark ink.

MIKE McGRATH  
Attorney General